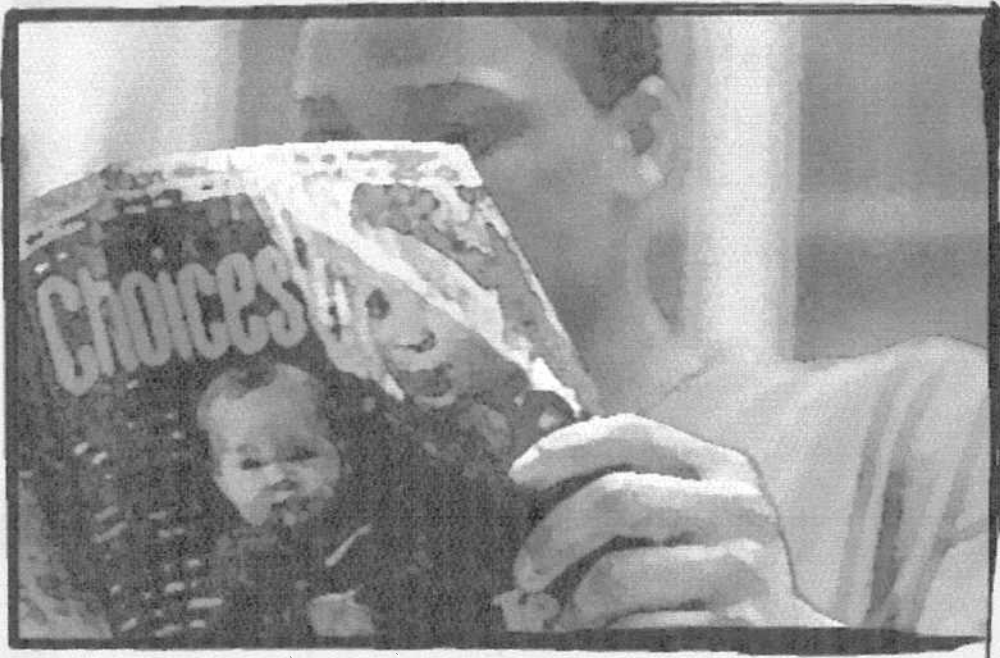


A Day in the Life of



a Maxey Student



“When I was out there I thought I would be locked in my room 23 hours every day. I thought that people shanked [stabbed] each other here. I thought I would have to fend for myself. But they [staff] make sure you eat, sleep, go to school and stay safe and healthy. It’s a busy day here. Did you know that I get up at 6 a.m everyday for school?”

“You teach youth how to organize when you teach them how to make their beds and clean their rooms.

You teach youth social skills and cooperation when you walk with them to school.

You teach youth how to order their day when you expect them get out of bed on time.

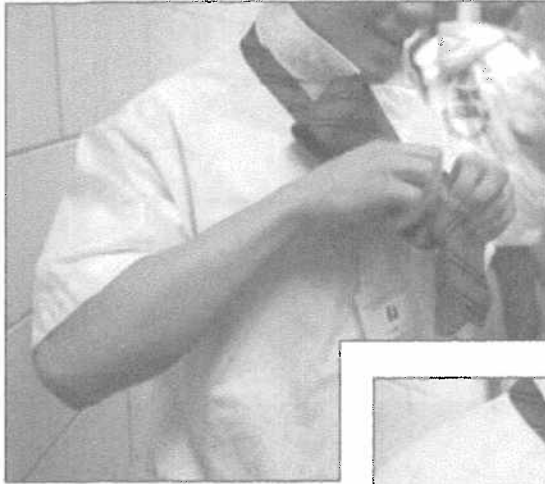
You teach youth self respect when you make sure they brush their teeth.

You teach youth respect when you show them how to follow directions.

These simple tasks generalize to the complicated steps needed to navigate an ordinary and successful day. Yet most of these youth have never had the opportunity or encouragement to learn to structure and accomplish these common tasks. This is what you teach them everyday when you come to work.”

~ David L. Burton, MSW, PhD,
Professor of Social Work at the
University of Michigan, at a
recent staff training on sexual
offender treatment.





“Awww, man! I can’t stand these things. Can you help me tie this, Mr. N.?”



“Before I came here, I would have never dreamed of being on a student council. I probably laughed at kids that did do things like this. I like helping the school and building leadership skills.”



“I was taken from my parents before I was two years old. Then I was in a whole bunch of foster homes until I was adopted at five. My brother wasn’t adopted. I think he’s in prison in a different state. I’m not even sure where he is. I wonder what would have happened if we had been together in a good home.”

“I just got accepted at a state university. I think I’m going to major in history. Whatever I decide to do, I’m going to need a lot of education.”



“The fact that you can get a good education at Maxey is one of the things that I like best about this place. The staff are concerned about what we are going to do once we leave here - not just about what we’re doing today.”



“I did do bad things but
I’m not all bad. I’m learning
that I can do lots of different
things and do lots of things
just differently.”



“I wish, when I was a
kid, that someone would have
told me ‘You can’ instead of
‘You can’t’. Now I know that I
really can.”





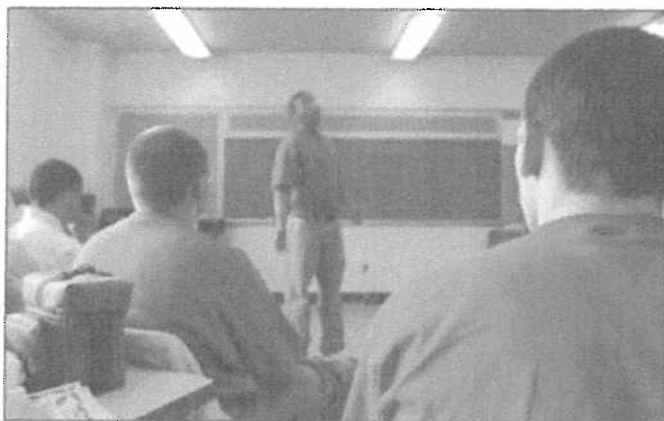
“It’s an earned privilege to be on Student Council. You have to get permission from your group and your staff before you apply and then you have to interview. The student and staff members of the Council vote on whether or not a candidate would be a good member.”

“We use Robert’s Rules of Order to run our meetings. I didn’t even know what that was before joining the Student Council.”

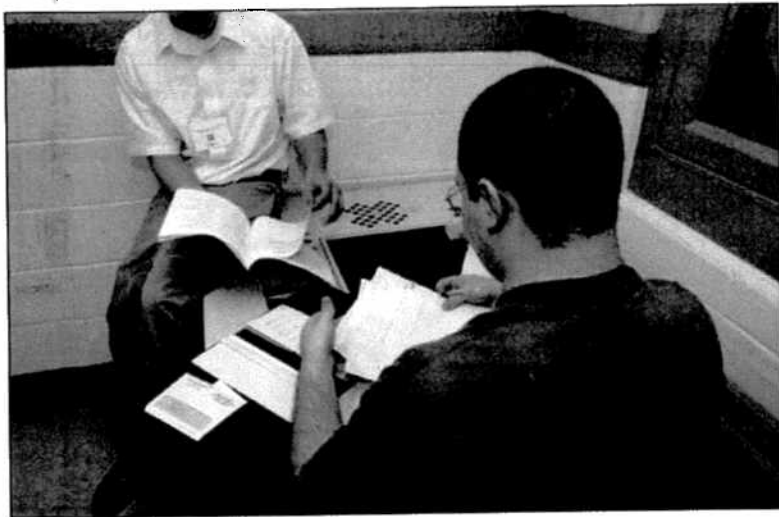




“I like drama class because
I’m scared of getting up in front of
people. This will help me grow.”



“I want people to know the truth about me - the whole truth. That I can succeed and I will succeed. You can overcome anything and be better than you were before. That’s what I’ve been learning and that’s what I’m trying to teach others.”





Youth offer advice to parents

“Teach your kids that there are consequences for their behavior. Hold them responsible - they won’t like it but they’ll thank you for it later on.”

“Teach them what to watch out for, to be wary of people that are too generous.”

“I think you should have a structured home life. Hold family meetings with your kids. Do stuff like we do here - goal setting and daily affirmations.”

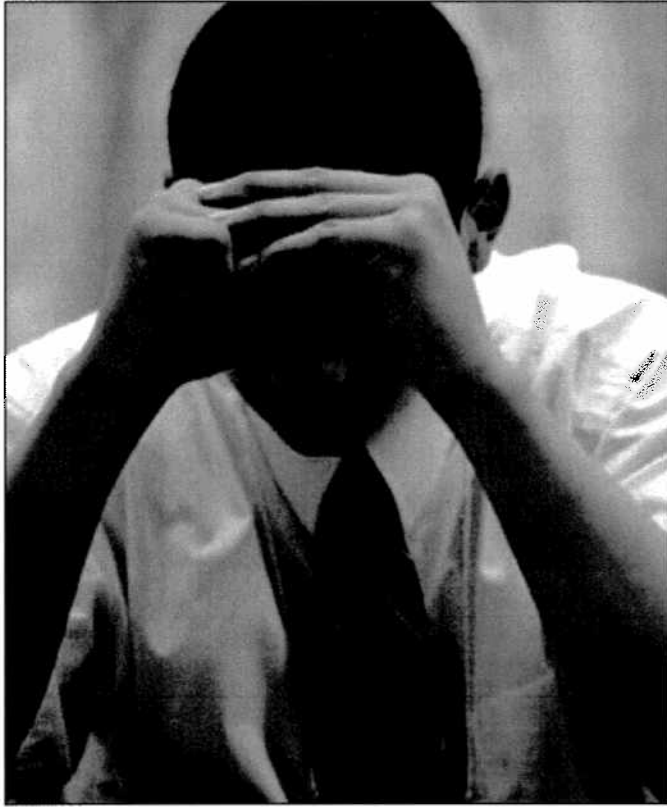


“I wish it were
Saturday or Sunday
everyday just so I
could go to church.”

“I want to turn my life
around and, for me,
that will be through
God.”

“My faith is
making me a strong
man - the kind of
man that I can be
proud to be. ”





“We are working on issues, showing courage. We are becoming young men. We’re facing challenges and issues that most people would never even imagine. We are strong.”



“Kids do what was done to them. It’s that simple. If you see violence and drugs then that is what you know. I think that is why most of us got to the point we did. It’s not really an excuse. It’s just how I see things. That doesn’t mean that we can’t change. For example, some kids come from the same environment that we did but are not here. Maybe somebody showed them a little of the care and concern that we now get from our staff. You know, you just never know how much something you do, good or bad, will affect someone else. ”



“I’m going to teach my kids that they are worth something. I’m going to show them by taking care of them, too. That way, they’ll learn how you’re supposed to.”

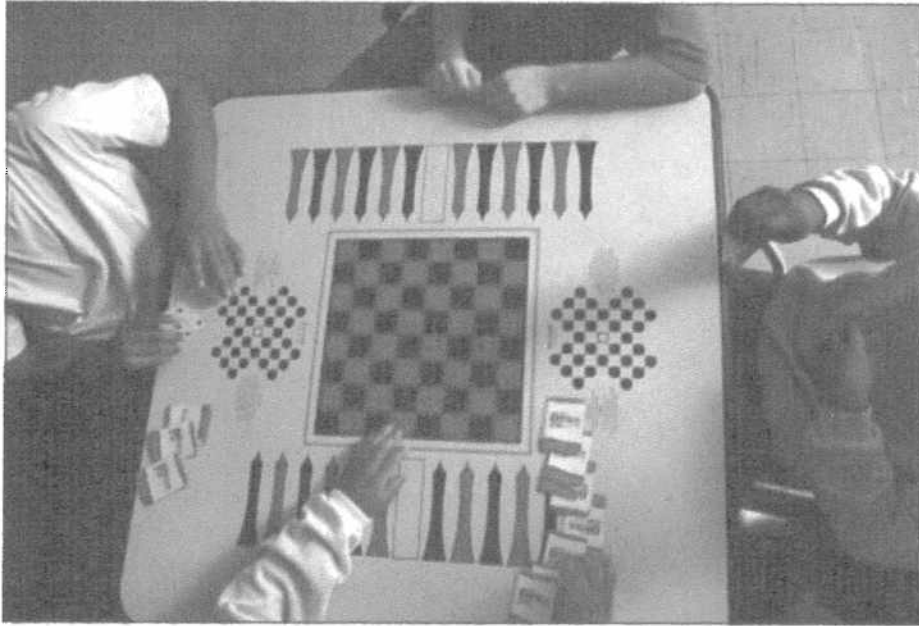
“At first, I didn’t want to accept authority. I never had accepted it before I came here. But I have learned that there is a reason for authority. It keeps us safe. If there were no authority here, it would be just like out on the streets.”





“How am I different than other people?

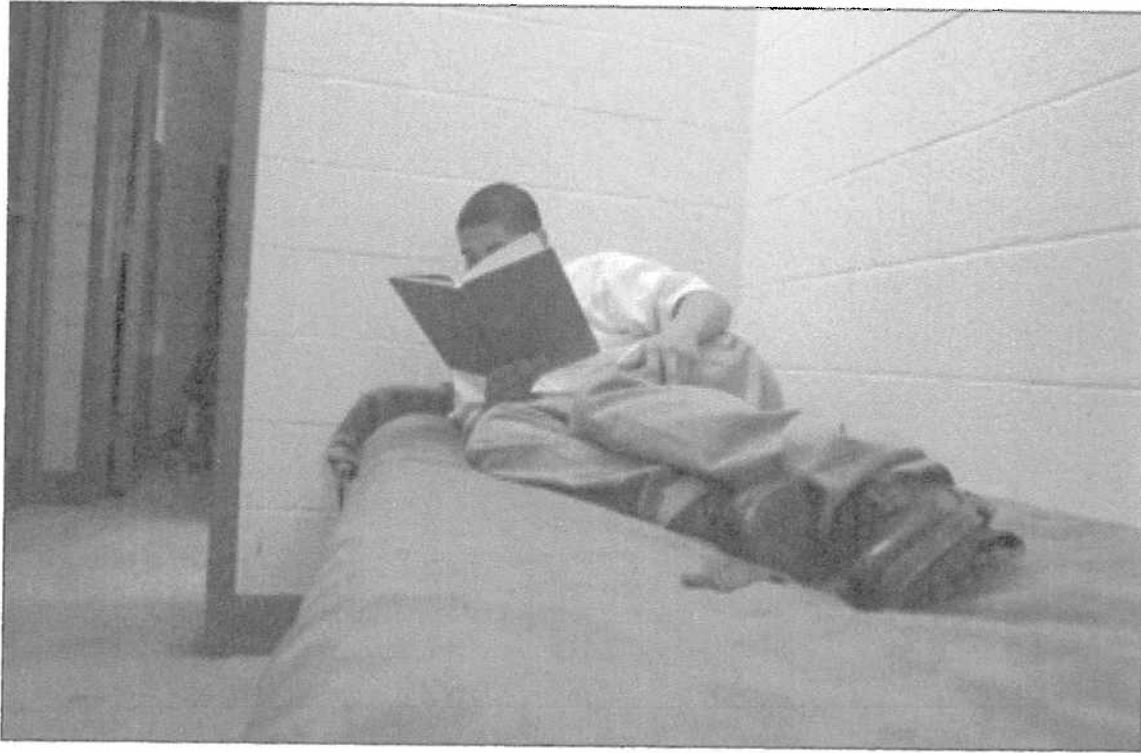
Well, as I see it, we all have feelings. We all have needs. Mostly, we are just different in the way we think about things.”



“I don’t remember not worrying about everything before I came here. Sometimes I feel guilty that I don’t worry so much. I mean, I know my little brother is at home doing the worrying now.”



“Football?! Who doesn’t like football?”



“Looking back and seeing what I’ve
come through gives me courage to move on.”



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